(c) if so, what are their recommendations; and

(d) whether the recommendations of the Tea Board accommodated in the FTAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. While negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) Government holds consultation with all stakeholders including Tea Board. In so far as India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement is concerned, inputs were obtained from the Tea Board and considered while finalizing the Agreement. The Indian-ASEAN FTA is not likely to adversely affect the tea industry as, even after gradual reduction of duty under FTA, rates of import duty will be high to protect the domestic tea industry. There are provisions for rules of origin under various FTAs which ensure substantial manufacturing in the final exporting country to avail tariff concessions in the importing country.

Impact of FTAs on domestic coffee producers

2169. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board considered the impact of recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on the domestic coffee producers;

(b) whether the Board also consider the issue of 'country of origin', as a few partners of the FTA have trade agreements with any third trading entity;

(c) if so, what are their recommendations; and

(d) whether the recommendations of the Coffee Board accommodated in the FTAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. While negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) Government holds consultation with all stakeholders including Coffee Board. Insofar as India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement is concerned inputs were obtained from the Coffee Board and considered while finalizing the Agreement. The India-ASEAN FTA is not likely to adversely affect the coffee industry as, even after gradual reduction of duty under FTA, rates of import duty will be still high to protect the domestic coffee industry. There are provisions for rules of origin under various FTAs which ensure substantial manufacturing in the final exporting country to avail tariff concessions in the importing country.

Implementation of NEIIPP, 2007

2170. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government is drawn by various organizations about the slow implementation of North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in implementation including disbursement of subsidies and income tax exemption issue related to NER; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for implementation of the policy in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) No instance of slow implementation of NEIIPP, 2007 has been reported. However, representations have been received from industry associations against modification of the basis of refund of 'excise duty exemption' ***w.e.f.*** 27.3.2008 by linking it to the rate of value addition notified for each industry, resulting in slowing down of investments in the region. They have also requested that 'subsidies and incentives' may not be treated as 'other income' of the industrial units for the purpose of calculation of income tax. However, it has not been found feasible to accede to these requests.

The funds for disbursement to the eligible units are released as per the requirement and availability of funds. Moreover, as and when any issue is raised by any of the stakeholders, it is resolved on the basis of mutual consultation.

Chinese counterfeit medicines with Made in India label

2171. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the counterfeit medicines labelled 'Made in India' and shipped to Nigeria had actually originated from China and not in India;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue with the Nigerian and Chinese Governments, given that this could damage the reputation of the Indian pharmaceutical industry in the global market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India's attention has been drawn to the press release issued by NAFDAC, Nigerian Government Drug Regulatory Authority, about detention and seizure of a large consignment of fake antimalarial generic pharmaceuticals labelled 'Made in India' but produced in China. Taking serious note of the contents of NAFDAC's Press Release, a strong protest was lodged with concerned Chinese authorities with a request to take stringent action against such unscrupulous elements. Consequent to India's strong protest, the Chinese Government conducted an investigation and found a nexus between Chinese drug manufacturers and importers in Nigeria. The principal suspects have been caught and their factories sealed. The Chinese Government is taking action against the accused as per their law.